

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)

2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0

Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors

**Sunday Services 10:30 am
December 2020**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 6	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	Power Dynamic Imbalance appears in many different forms... some of these are blatant, but others may not be so apparent, depending on which side of the equation you might be on.	Toni Janik
Dec. 13	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	Twelve Sleeps Halfway through the Advent countdown, anticipation seems to take centre-stage. Yet between each sleep in the countdown, there are entire days with their own potential.	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 20	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	The Long Night Ahead The longest night of the year is upon us, and with it, the beginning of the coldest season - after an already drawn-out time of isolation for many. What can we look forward to?	Toni Janik
Dec. 24	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	Listens & Carols Even at a distance, the music of Christmas is better enjoyed with company. Join from your home as we lead you in song. Get ready to dim the lights, and BYOC - Bring Your Own Candle!	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Dec. 27	Bill Baylis	It's About Time (IAT) Measuring time and space and looking back in time. How the constancy of the speed of light revolutionized our understanding of spacetime.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 3	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	Beyond Expectations With Advent gone past, new seasons of expectation are before us, as the coming months may reveal a new sense of life.	Baylis/ Stone Trio

*There will be no services in the church building until further notice due to COVID-19. Services will be available at the usual time via Zoom. You will receive notifications by email and/or telephone. The website, uuOlinda.org, will be kept up-to-date regarding services and meetings. Rev. Rod is publishing his reflections on the website. You can access them by going to UUOlin-da.org and clicking on the appropriate Recent Post (upper right-hand corner.) His reflections are also being mailed to those who prefer to read printed materials.

From The Board

November, 2020: a month of moving into beginning the year-long celebration of Olinda's 140 years; a month of moving towards finalization of projects such as incorporation and new bylaws; a month of moving forward with heightened monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the church and community as incident numbers increase locally and worldwide; and a month of moving towards this year's board ending as it goes into preparation mode for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The board has moved to a heightened state of readiness as it begins to bring together the many pieces needed for the AGM – one that will cap this extraordinary year in the life of Olinda – the year of COVID. A key change and challenge for the Board will be the holding of this year's AGM through the use of electronic media while ensuring that we meet all rights and requirements due to members of the Church. As such you will find information in this issue concerning:

The process underway to prepare the membership for a vote on new Bylaws needed as a result of Olinda's incorporation process;

The preparation of next year's budget to be voted on in early December; and

Ongoing accommodations to Olinda working within the many changes initiated by COVID.

All that said I want to restate that we are here to assist you in any way we can.

Please continue to reach out to us as you may require.

Wishing all of you a safe, healthy, happy holiday season!

Respectfully,
Stephen Brennan,
Board President.



Clergy Connection

Advent is upon us, along with a great sense of anticipation. And this year, anticipation spans beyond Christmas, as we look – with cautious optimism – toward the possibilities of 2021, including the increased likelihood of in-person gatherings some time into the new year.

Now that we are “between the bookends” of our two anniversaries – for our founding and our building – we move deeper into our exploration of covenant. Our **Adult RE** program *What Matters Now*, has now run through November, and has been extended for two weeks in December, where several of us are delving into the practice of a covenant group. If you missed out this time around, we are hoping to offer another program in late winter or spring.

It was good to see our larger UU community at our Canada-wide Sunday Service on Nov. 15. I was also able to attend the Friday Regional Gathering and Saturday workshops on Nov. 13 and 14. I am aware that there were challenges for access for many of our members, including issues with the registration process and the YouTube livestream (the full service is now available on our webpage). The Canadian Unitarian Council team will be working on improving the experience for the next national service on Feb. 7.

I participated in this year’s **Carters Church and Charity Law Seminar** on Nov. 5. As always, it offered very useful review, along with some updates on current charity law applicable to us.

I also participated in a **Digital Ministry** seminar by UU online media coach Peter Bowden on Nov. 12. On that note, our newly-formed **Tech Team** met on Nov. 23, as we prepare to find more ways to support our emerging online ministry.

The Leamington Ministerial Group continues to participate with community leaders in addressing homelessness. At a recent meeting, we met a new Project Coordinator, who was hired to help concretize some of the action steps that have been outlined, and I’m curious where this initiative will lead.

On a personal and professional note, I received a letter from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee this past month, confirming that I have been granted **Full Fellowship** – this is, above all, an affirmation of my ministry by the colleagues who share my calling. **Thank you** to everyone on the **Board** and the **Committee on Shared Ministry** for your work on the fellowshiping process!

I am full of anticipation to share the holiday season and a new year with you!

In Solidarity,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

No in-person meetings are planned; all meetings noted below are virtual meetings, utilizing Zoom technology. If that should change, a revised schedule will be published.

Nov. 29 Noon
Question & Answer on
Proposed By-Laws

Dec. 6 Noon
Congregational Budget
Meeting

Dec. 10 7 pm
Board Meeting

Dec. 13 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 20 Noon
General Congregational
Meeting on By-Laws

Jan. 5
January Newsletter Reports
Due

Social Responsibility Report

Justicia for Migrant Workers...Valuable Work isWork We Should Value!

It is June 28, 2020 and we are in the middle of a pandemic, one that never seems to go away but there is social justice work to do. I am pulling up to a number of other cars in the Walmart parking lot in Leamington Ontario. All cars are decorated in some fashion whether it is with premade signs, balloons, streamers or simply words written on cars with erasable markers. People are helping others decorate or engage in a socially distanced chat. Everyone is masked and there is an air of excitement and camaraderie. I look closely and manage to recognize some familiar faces, those that are reliably at many protests and community solidarity events.

A young woman with two small daughters is busy organizing cars and attending to details. A friend points out that she is Elizabeth Ha of OPSEU who has spearheaded this event. After some time she gathers the participants together for a briefing. We will be driving in caravan fashion past many greenhouse operations honking support for the migrant workers and then returning to the Big Tomato on Talbot Street for more activities.

Why this event? Elizabeth has been advocating for migrant workers in this area for 20 years. She is an essential player in the organization Justicia...or Justice for Migrant Workers. J4MW, based in Toronto, is a volunteer run political non-profit collective comprised of activists from diverse walks of life: educators, labour activists, students, researchers, youth of colour, and citizens, like me, who care. The goal is to promote the rights of migrant farm workers participating in the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program and farm workers without status. These workers need the space to articulate their concerns without concern of reprisal or repatriation. J4MW ally with these workers becoming familiar with their knowledge or concerns and then collectively creating strategies to push for change. The end result is better living and working conditions but also to affect change on a global scale. There are families left behind or in some ways suffering from the effects of the absence of a parent for a substantial part of many years.



The grave concerns facing migrant workers became clear in April 2001 when a small group of labour activists including Sam Raper of UFCW, traveled to Leamington to investigate a serious labour dispute among Mexican migrant workers, resulting in 20 workers being fired and sent home for speaking up about working conditions. The grass root organizing and documentation that followed drew the attention of government officials forming the basis of the Migrant Farm Workers in Canada Report presented to the Ministry of Labour in 2001. The workers started to trust this group of activists and cautiously continued to report on the farm conditions. It became apparent that a more permanent structure was needed, hence the formation of Justicia for Migrant Workers in the summer of 2002, serving all migrant workers in Ontario. Two of its founding members are Elizabeth Ha and Chris Rampsaroo.

The organizing work continues and the voices have remained strong throughout the years but today there is a new challenge for these labourers....covid 19. The news of multiple infections at several farms in Essex County as well as other locations in Ontario has made its way to the media but unfortunately not all the stories have been told. Even today workers are threatened if they go to the media.

Social Responsibility Report, Cont'd.

During an interview with Elizabeth, the current situation was discussed. The living conditions have not changed greatly during the outbreak with workers living too close to one another to be safe from infection. The cost to build healthy spaces would be prohibitive. As a result many infected workers have kept their illness a secret because of fear of repatriation. Additionally, they have demonstrated a huge loyalty to their employer and great pride in their work. Migrant workers don't have the same status and employment rights as other workers in Canada so being sent home is a real fear. These families need this employment!! This issue in particular, is a current focus for J4MW. Migrant workers are forced to pay all the deductions of status workers yet are not entitled to CPP, or EI and find it harder to get health care.

Many farmers forced to quarantine or isolate their staff have done so reluctantly because of the effect on their harvests. When quarantined or isolated, workers are housed in local hotels or motels but it had been discovered that many had no cooking facilities except perhaps a microwave. Prepared cooked food was to be provided by the employer but through conversations with workers the amount and type of food was not enough nor culturally appropriate. Again workers were reluctant to complain. When this was exposed farmers started to provide more fresh produce: a practice I am not sure is continuing.

With this knowledge, the Red Cross got involved but according to Elizabeth the disorganization was hampering the delivery of appropriate foods. As the numbers of infected increased and the crisis recognized, Justicia dove in gathering food from local food banks and the Canada Food Bank using volunteers to deliver to sick workers. In some cases workers were not allowed to leave the bunk houses to go into the community to shop for food so Elizabeth has found a way to once monthly get food into the hands of migrant workers. It worked out extremely well because this monthly amount coincides with the expiry date of some food from the food banks. There is still much to be done and networks improved in order to deal with the infections that are bound to increase with this second wave of covid-19.

It goes without saying that the problem of undocumented workers is still occurring. Recruiters hired by some employers will find these workers and use them especially when other workers are in quarantine. Lately there has been a case of 17 documented workers from a Leamington cannabis greenhouse operation being promised better jobs in another location with more money and attractive bonuses. The migrant workers jumped at the possibility only to be arrested and charged during a police raid of the cannabis greenhouse. It was a not a licensed, legal operation but because of the language barrier and the complete similarity to the work, the migrant workers had no idea they were doing anything illegal. They were charged with cultivating and propagating or harvesting more than four cannabis plants, contrary to the Cannabis Act, as well as possession of the proceeds of crime under the Criminal Code. The United Food and Commercial Workers have been working with several of the seasonal workers helping them to understand their rights, the legal challenges facing them and trying to find affordable legal representation.

This example just serves to exemplify many other challenges facing seasonal farm workers. Not having labour rights or trying to navigate a system with language or cultural barriers leads to incredible workplace and societal vulnerability: abuses Canadian workers have fought long and hard to overturn.

Social Responsibility Report, Cont'd.

There have been many occasions when Justicia needed drivers to deliver boxed food to the isolated/ quarantined workers, and it is my intent to offer assistance when I can.

Simply put: We can help improve living and worker conditions for these dedicated labourers who do the kind of hard physical labour most of us quite honestly don't want to do!

You can help by writing to your MP or MPP and telling them that migrant workers deserve status and labour rights.

Donations are gratefully accepted at J4MW.

If you ate today, a migrant worker has something to do with it!

For more information contact:

J4mw.on@gmail.com

Organization's Mailing and Donations Address:

Justice for Migrant Workers
c/o Worker's Action Centre
720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 223
Toronto ON , M5S2T9

Sue Markham



Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your generous donations for the two Children's Aid Society Christmas families. John and Linda Upcott have completed the gift shopping which will soon be delivered to Children's Aid.

Thanks, also, for your donations as we approach year end. Thanks for fulfilling and sometimes exceeding your pledges. If you wish to have your donation counted for 2020, please contribute by cheque and mail to the church or my home address or contribute by e-transfer. Your contribution must arrive by December 31 in order to receive an income tax receipt for 2020.

Thank you, Helen Moore, Treasurer



Finance Trustee Report

The Budget, distributed Nov. 17, is ready for your approval at the Congregational Meeting on the Budget after church on Sunday, Dec. 6. Various committees and trustees have input into this budget, but it mostly is based on past expenses and donations, recorded by our Treasurer, Helen Moore. Thank you, Helen, for your dedication to this work.

This Budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and by the Board of Trustees and represents all of our best estimates. Please stay after "Coffee Hour" for this meeting or call in at 12 noon (So we can have a Quorum!) and join in the discussion of this important aspect of church life.

Note that we are projecting a deficit similar to that of last year, less than \$9000. Now we have whittled the 2020 deficit down to a probable surplus by careful spending, generous donations, and government support. Hopefully we can continue in our generosity and frugality and the government support continues!

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

General Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Proposed By-Laws
December 20, 2020

At noon following the Zoom Service
Please attend! We need a Quorum!

Question & Answer Session:
Noon, November 29, 2020

Membership and Publicity

The Membership Committee was pleased to hear from so many of you that you enjoyed the service by Rev. Rod celebrating the founding of our church 140 years ago. We look forward to the bookend celebration in September 2021 of the anniversary of our church building—built in 1881. The two publications celebrating our 140th celebration are available for you to own your own copies. Louise Foulds' book "*Universalists in Ontario.*" and Jane Innerd's updated history of our church covering the last twenty years entitled, "*The Little Church at the Crossroads: A Brief History of the First 120 Years of The Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda together with A History of the Years 2000 to 2020 In Celebration of the 140th Anniversary.*" To order your copy of both publications please connect with Toni Janik, Helen Moore or Bobbye Baylis. The order form is also available in last month's newsletter and on our church webpage

We are excited to announce that Elaine Stevenson and Toni Janik will be hosting a socially distanced fund-raising Soup Meal in January 2021. Each meal will consist of a generous portion of soup, a bun and a dessert. Suggested donation is \$15 per meal. Diners are invited to pre-order as many meals as they would like. Contactless pickup will be on Tuesday January 19, 2021 from your choice of either Elaine's front porch in Olinda or Toni's porch in Windsor. Rev. Rod has graciously agreed to set up an optional Virtual Dining Experience on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6 PM. The order form can be found on page 10 in this newsletter. Rather than sending the order form in kindly either call Toni at 519-966-6434 or email djanik1@cogeco.ca with the subject line **January UU Soup Meal** with your order(s).

May everyone have a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday.

Toni Janik
Membership and Publicity Trustee

Archives and Library Committee

I am so pleased to let you know that Sue Markham has joined the Archives Committee. Charlotte Innerd and I are looking forward to having Sue work along with us.

We Welcome Sue.

Carol Hylton

Caring Committee Report

Welcome December! May it be the month that brings your health, wealth and unexpected miracles.

Many thanks to all for reaching out, to shut-ins and our fellow congregants, living alone, either by e-mail or phone conversations, during this time of Covid isolation.

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Tina Bell on Nov. 4th. Over the years she was active in the church with the Women's Association and in bake and yard sales. She was an inspiration to all who knew her; may she rest in peace.

Get well wishes are extended to Evelyn Fisher while she recuperates, in rehab, also good to see Peter LeClair is home from the hospital. Due to visiting restrictions, Leona and I had a short visit with Marion Thompson and Evelyn Dresser one afternoon. Good to see them face to face, even though we had our masks on. The committee is expecting to spread some Christmas Cheer if allowed.

A Christmas hello to Emil & Eunice Buhne, Pat & John Haynes, Buster & Carabel Ringrose and Sylvia Dotzert, may everyday in December fill your days with hope, sunshine and energy. Wishing All a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

November 10th was a Milestone Day for me and I want to thank all my good friends at the UU Church of Olinda for your greetings and wishes. Your messages made my 95th Birthday a very special occasion.....*Eunice Goyette*

The passing of my Aunt Tina, Albertina Bell, was expected but when it happens, as you know, it is still difficult. All your caring messages of condolence, your cards of sympathy and flowers are very much appreciated. You are so thoughtful.

Also, most deserving is a big thank you to the Caring Committee who faithfully visited Tina over the years taking gifts and flowers to her. Your cheerful visits and smiles brought joy to Tina and she appreciated it all very much.

Thank You Everybody. *Carol Hyllton*

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

January Soup Meal Order Form



Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are thrilled to offer a contactless fund-raising and optional social dining experience for congregants and friends . Pickup will be on Tuesday January 19, 2021 and the optional virtual table dining experience will be Wednesday January 20, 2021 .Suggested donation is \$15 per meal.

Each Meal will include a generous portion of soup, a bun and dessert.

Please choose one of the following :

Soup: (1) Dill Pickle Vegetarian Soup

(2) Quinoa Veggie (Vegan)

(3) Four Cheese Tortellini (Vegetarian)

(4) Beef Barley

Dessert: Apple Pie Square—Please choose (A) Regular OR (B) Sugar-free

Please Choose Pickup Location:

(A) Elaine's front porch Olinda OR (B) Toni's front porch Windsor

Pickup time—Tuesday January 19 from 11 AM to 6 PM

Please specify what time you would like to pickup.

If you require pickup outside of these hours please call Toni

To Place Your Order(s) - Call Toni at 519-966-6434 or email [djani-
k1@cogeco.ca](mailto:djanik1@cogeco.ca)

A Letter to the Olinda UU Church Congregation

We are well into a long war against an unseen foe, with the main weapons we each have to assist in the battle being isolation, socially distancing, being masked when in public and of course general cleanliness to the end we may soon feel like the skin is falling off our hands. The tools we have to stay somewhat stable are to stay in touch. Many have the ability to use the web based tools, ZOOM and / or GOTO MEETING. Some may have a lot fewer options such as telephone and post. Have we thought of everything that the general public can do? Probably not.

Well as the temperature has dropped, and we needed to close the windows and turn on the heat what struck you, anything?

For myself what hit me first was, there is that characteristic smell again. We all know that smell on the first firing up of the heating system in the fall, dust deposits in air ducts being heated up. What did I think of next? The news releases when establishments opened up for indoor dining, albeit being socially distanced from others in the reduced capacity of patrons, but that did not help some folks! Across the dining facility patrons in the path of the airflow, covid19 was contracted, while some closer, but still distanced were unaffected. The next flash I saw was the scramble to upgrade ventilation systems in schools to protect the children. I finally had it dawn on me, how could I make improvements in my own home to protect my small "bubble". The furnace smell prompted me to do some investigating, relative to, am I using the best filters for today's environment? I would like to share what I found and afterward put forward something I believe is worth considering, individually and as a group.

Here is what I found.

How filters are rated.

I found three systems. The MERV system, the MPR system and the FPR system and I will briefly describe them.

The MERV system (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value)

This system uses a scale of 1-16. It is an international system that was established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). It rates the filters ability to capture and hold particles and pollutants. Smaller particles can be trapped and retained by higher MERV valves.

The MPR system (Micro-Particulate Performance Rating)

This system was developed by "3M". It rates the filter's ability to capture the smaller particles, those less than 1 micron.

The FPR system (Filter Performance Rating)

This system, created by Home Depot labels filters on a scale of 4 through 10. It is designed to specifically label brands sold through their stores and this rating system is claimed to be very similar to the MERV rating.

How do the Rating Systems Compare.

I found a few different ways in which the ratings apply to filters and the reported effectiveness. I have attached three charts that you may review and consider.

Annex 1 - MERV Minimum Particulate Capture Ratings

Annex 2 – MPR Scale versus Contaminates Contained

Annex 3 – MERV vs. MPR vs. FRR Ratings

With the MERV system considered to be the standard system, this is what we can see. A standard fiberglass 1" filter is typically MERV 2, and will typically remove, as I read the charts, a minimum of 20% of the "larger" particles, lint, household dust, dust mites and possibly some pollen and spores. At the high end of the scale a MERV 16 is claimed to remove 95% of all particulate between the sizes of 0.3 to 10 microns. The Vanguard Article^{Ref2} states that for COVID-19 that ASHRAE has started recommending the use of at least MERV-14 rated filters.

Continuation of Open Letter to the Congregation

Studying this information I know what I will be doing. I will be looking for MERV 14 or MPR 1500 or higher filters that fit my furnace. This is a huge change from being like the vast majority of home owners who usually purchase the commonly marketed fiberglass filters that are “economical” (typically in the MERV 2-4 rating range), if of course, you do not consider what they let pass, like bacteria, viruses, and particulate from coughs and sneezes. The price differential, (*see annex 4*), on a yearly basis will be a small price to pay, to reduce contagions spreading in my home, even the less serious ones after we get covid-19 under control and life back to close to the normal we used to know.

Perhaps, the congregation should follow a similar train of thought, possibly for your own homes, but more particularly for the church, so that when we are able to give our smart phones and computers a rest, and return to the church, all attendees will be better protected, than by using a low quality dust filter in our ventilation system, when higher quality filters are available.

Richard W Stevenson
Consulting – Cement and Concrete

References:

https://www.filtrete.com/3M/en_US/filtrete/about-us/the-right-filter-for-you/
<https://www.energyvanguard.com/blog/understanding-filter-ratings-merv-fpr-and-mpr>
<https://www.airfiltersdelivered.com/c/merv-mpr-fpr-ratings>
<https://www.iallegery.com/page/compare-3m-filtrete-filters>
https://www.filtrete.ca/3M/en_CA/filtrete-science/mpr-vs-merv/

The Four Annex charts provided by Richard Stevenson are available to those congregants who would like to have a copy. Please contact either Toni Janik or Bobby Baylis and we will send them to you for your review/reference.

